

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF LONG-TIME CARSON CITY COUNCIL-WOMAN KAY CALAS

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 13, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of a truly inspirational woman, Kay Calas. Kay was a resident of Carson for over seven decades, and helped the area evolve into a large and diverse city with a thriving business community.

Shortly after moving to Carson in 1940 with her oldest son Chuck Thonney she met her husband, John Calas. Together they had four sons and were active members of the Carson community. He went on to found the Carson Chamber of Commerce, help the city incorporate in 1968 and finally was elected to the City Council in 1972.

Only three years later Mr. Calas passed away. The city saw something special in Kay, and 1,400 residents signed a petition urging the council to appoint her to the seat for the remainder of his term. Although the effort was unsuccessful she ran in the next election, and won. She won the next seven elections as well, before retiring in 2005.

Throughout scandal and corruption in the city's government, Kay could always be looked to as the beacon of righteousness. Although many of her colleagues were brought down from these scandals, not once was she affected.

Kay's life was dedicated to her sons and the city she loved so much. She had a particular passion for senior citizen's rights and the fine arts. There were instances where she would pay for a senior's hearing aid if the insurance would not cover it, and every year she paid the travel expenses to bring 3,000 school children to The Carson Symphony Orchestra.

Her political rivals had great respect for her as well, stating that although they disagreed on legislative issues, they knew Kay was always trying to help the city and residents of Carson.

Kay Calas was an innovative and visionary woman. As a woman in Congress I can appreciate what it takes to break into a traditionally male oriented world, and being elected in the seventies to public office is all the more impressive. She was an ideal role model for the young women of Carson, and her presence will be sorely missed.

### THE HELP SEPARATED FAMILIES ACT

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 13, 2012*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Help Separated Families Act.

This legislation proposes common sense solutions to keep families united and reduce the number of children in foster care as a result of immigration enforcement action.

During the first half of last year alone, more than 46,000 parents of U.S. citizen children were deported from the United States. In the wake of their parents' removal, a growing number of children have been placed in foster care and left to languish, or worse yet, have been separated permanently from their families when their parents' rights are terminated. It is estimated that over 5,000 children in at least 22 states are currently living in foster care as a result of immigration enforcement policies.

As parental deportation and detention rates have risen in recent years, the devastating impact on families has increased. Mothers like Encarnacion Bail Romero, who was apprehended in a federal immigration raid in 2007 and torn from her then-seven-month son, often face insurmountable barriers to family reunification. Ms. Romero, a native of Guatemala, had her parental rights terminated while in federal custody after a judge ruled that "illegally smuggling herself into the country is not a lifestyle that can provide any stability for the child." Her son Carlitos was adopted out against her will to a new family who now calls him Jameson, and Ms. Romero has not seen him in approximately five years.

What this case and so many more like it tell us is that, in the U.S., immigration status in itself has become grounds to permanently separate families. This is absolutely, unquestionably inhumane and unacceptable—particularly for a country that values family and fairness so highly.

The bond that exists between children and parents is not weakened by country of origin or immigration status. Undocumented parents love their children and want the best for them as all parents do, yet our broken child welfare and immigration systems undermine the best interests of their families. The Help Separated Families Act helps address this heartbreaking issue.

To ensure more children are cared for by family members, my bill prohibits immigration status from disqualifying a parent, legal guardian, or relative from placement consideration. While current law allows undocumented individuals to become a foster or adoptive parent, our child welfare system continues to be biased against undocumented caregivers, as evidenced by a 12-year-old boy in Michigan who has spent two full years in foster care with strangers after both of his parents were deported. Even though his aunt and uncle sought custody, they were denied by the child welfare agency on the basis of their immigration status.

The Help Separated Families Act also facilitates family unity by prohibiting states from petitioning to terminate parental rights based on the deportation or detention of a parent, provided certain conditions have been met. This provision protects the legal rights of parents and prevents child welfare agencies from un-

fairly, unnecessarily, and permanently separating children from their parents.

Our broken immigration system has torn apart families and taken a terrible toll on communities. I ask my colleagues to join me in doing our part to keep families together by supporting the Help Separated Families Act.

### ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH SUDAN'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 13, 2012*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, Monday marked the anniversary of South Sudan's independence. The people of that war-weary nation voted overwhelmingly to break from Khartoum which is headed by an indicted war criminal.

The challenges facing this fledgling nation are sizeable, including government corruption. A June AP story reported on President Salva Kiir's efforts to secure the return of an estimated \$4 billion in stolen funds. Kiir wrote, "We fought for freedom, justice and equality . . . Yet, once we got to power, we forgot what we fought for and began to enrich ourselves at the expense of our people." These are sobering but necessary words.

South Sudan's transition to independence has been undermined by their murderous neighbor to the north—Bashir. He's driven thousands of refugees from the Nuba Mountains into South Sudan.

And the Obama administration has done little to thwart him.

We must stand with our friends in the South as they seek to establish a healthy democracy and we must bring Bashir to justice.

### ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIX ASSURANCES AND OF THE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW IN TAIWAN

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 13, 2012*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate two important anniversaries that are coming up this July 14th in relation to our close friends in Taiwan.

Since the end of World War Two, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of enormous strategic and economic benefit to both countries. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China (PRC) in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) to ensure that the United States would continue its robust engagement with Taiwan in the areas of commerce, culture, and security cooperation. On April 10, 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed this important and lasting

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.